

*The Lords and Commons Reasons and Justifications for the
Deprivation and Deposition of JAMES II. From the
Imperial Throne of England. Being in full satisfaction
to all the Princes of Europe, and in Answer to all Ob-
jections, Domestick and Foreign.*

Allowed to be Printed.

When the greatest Changes in States, such as the Mutations of Imperial Princes, are made; the greatest Reasons and most potent Arguments ought to be furnish'd for such important Counsels and Decrees. But as the Reasoning part of Mankind are so different and opposite in their Judgments and Determinations given in so weighty a Cause; the grounds of such irreconcileable Dissent in their Opinions, arise only from their various Fixation of the Original of Government. For whilst some are combating for *Fure Division*, and others for the Humane Constitution of Monarchy, those nicer and remoter Speculations lead 'em so high, to such different Fountain-Heads of Regal Power, till they cease to be matter of Argument, and terminate in meer Matter of Faith. And when it comes up thither, and Men, as generally, in the tenderest points of Faith, believe only, because through the Impulse of some unaccountable Conviction, they cannot but believe, Reasoning is then str ck Mute; and all beyond is taken up only upon Trust.

Where Argumentation therefore, as in this Case, will be altogether vain, because unconvincing, the greatest and strongest, (publickly visible,) support, and Authority we must repair to, must be that last Refuge both of Law and Equity PRECEDENT. What has been done upon Mature Deliberation, and the Consent of whole Kingdoms, in the like Case before, stands for a Pattern, what may be done now. For Examples of which kind,

There has been very well urged already, the Case of *Sigismond the III. King of Sweden, Deposed by the States of Sweden*, in so many Respects so wonderfully the Parallel to the Late Male Administration in *England*.

But as Precedents are least Satisfactory, or least confronting to obstinate Opposers; where they make only for one Party: A Popish *Sigismond* deposed for Male-Administration in a Protestant Kingdom may not perhaps be allowed to carry its sufficient Justification with the *Romanists*; and therefore the Tables ought to be turned, and the Ballance made by Parallels of their own side; the most prudent way of combating, and securing a Victory in this Matter, being to lay the Scene of War in the Enemies Country.

To confute therefore, and silence all the Romish Pretensions of Disgust and Murmure, against the Injustice of such a Deprivation, from Examples of Popish Deposals of Male administering Protestants; we'll begin with *Henry of Navarre*, afterwards *Henry the Fourth of France*.

The Famous Holy League enter'd into by the Pope himself, and so many potent Allies; together, with all the Romish Subjects of *France*, against that undoubted Heir of the Crown of *France*, and at that time by Succession their Rightful King, is so notoriously known to the World, that all the tedious particulars of the History, would be impertinent.

Let it suffice, here was a Prince, the unquestion'd Inheritour of the Crown of *France*, actually by all Open and Hostile means (and all such Hostility avow'd and abett'd, and his very Birth-right fore-closed by the Pope himself) opposed and denied his Accession to the Throne, for no other unqualifications, but being a *Hugonot*; that is, of a perswasion contrary to the Establishit, and Regnant Romish Religion in *France*; being in all other respects acknowledged a most excellent Prince: Insomuch, that after all other ineffectual endeavours of recovering his Birth-right; he had no means left to repeal his Exclusion and Debarrment from the Throne, but by his Abjuration of the Reformed Religion, and return to the Romish Worship.

This Case of *Henry the IV.* in stead of a Parallel to Ours, does not come up to half the Justification of the present Measures of *England*. For here

here was a Sovereign Prince under Deprivation, for no other Default, but his meer Religion; For this Henry the IV. being then but in his Entrance to the Empire (if truly that) was consequently, yet at least (what ever they might fear) under no Dilemmas of the least Breach of Compact with his People, no Forfeitures for Male Administration, or Violation of the Laws of the Land, or Rights of his Subjects; their Dangers as then being only Apprehensions. If therefore the meer private Opinion of a Crowned Head, different from the Established Religion of the Land, has been of weight enough (it self alone) in their own Scales to oversway the Birth-Right of Princes, and make a Bar to Empire; and that too, so solemnly confirmed and ratified, even by the Sanction Apostolick, the Decretals of Rome it self: What Objections or Allegations can our Romish Disputants, (whether Forraign or Domestick) make against the like Bar in Empire, after so notorious an actual Male Administration, in the present Case of England, such too visible Ruptures of the Laws of the Land, and in Defyance of all Obligations of Engagements, Covenant, Word, Honour or OATHS themselves.

The next Example I shall point 'em to, is that of the Late *Portuguese* King, who by the Ordinance of the States of *Portugal*, ratified by the Popes Assent was Dethroned, and his Brother invested with the Sovereignty; and not only that, but his very Queen too taken from him, Divorced, and by a Dispensation Married to his Brother. The Grounds of this Deposal being only this, that the King was sometimes taken with Delirious Fits.

If such a Personal infirmity was ground sufficient to displace the Crown; have not the People or Community of *England*, in Convention Assembled, as much Right on their side, for the Déposal of a King, for a far greater Infirmitiy (of the two a more violent Madness) his long tryed and radicated Incapacity of being held either by the Bonds or Ties of Honour, Laws, or Oaths. There being this infinite Difference between the Outrages of the one and the other, as that a Prince, so bigotted, resolved for the Introduction, right or wrong, of his own Religion, is the more Dangerous Frantick. For his Superstitious Frenzy may push him to Violences that will hurt whole Nations, whereas the Outrages of the other can be only Personal. And if the Hands of the Lunatick *Portuguese* were thought Just to be tied up with no less Shackles, than taking both his Kingdom and Queen away from him; who shall Arraign the Wisdom of the *English*, for depriving their King of his Kingdom (much good may do him with his Queen under an infinite larger Capacity, and more Dangerous Propensity to Mischief. And for so doing, what warrant shall they want, when the present unforced Desertion of the King, and quitting the Helm, has put the Power of Decision in that point into their own Hands; and left him all Right of Appeal against the Alienation.

I shall venture to add one last Consideration, viz. The Bull of Pope *Pius Quintus*, against Queen *Elizabeth*; by which the Pope deprives her of all Title to the Imperial Crown, and all Dominion, Dignity, and Priviledge whatever; declaring that all the Nobility, Subjects, and People of England, and all others which have in any sort Sworn unto her, to be for ever absolved from any such Oath; and all manner of Duty and Dominion, Allegiance, and Obedience, &c. and all forbidden to obey her, her Monitions, Mandates, or Laws. *Vide Bishop of Lincoln's Brutum Fulmen*, p. 6.

I recite this unjust Deposal of a Lawful Queen, by the pretended Authority of the Pope, no other, then to let the World know that the Romish-party have the least Reason in Nature, to complain of the Deprivation of Princes. They, whose Infallible Guides can so insolently and Arbitrarily place or displace Crown'd Heads (not to mention the Illegality of the Popes Interposition in the Affair in any kind) for only acting by Law, in Matters of Religious Changes, (for such were all Ecclesiastick Alterations of that Queen, by the unquestion'd Authority of Acts of Parliaments;) can be but ill furnisht with Arguments, against the present Deprivation, enacted by the whole Community of *England*, for such violent measures and Foundations, already form'd and begun, for the subversion of Church and State against all Law.